

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 01031 280952Z

17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-02

SP-02 /063 W

----- 062553

R 280806Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8908

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 1031

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EAIR EEWT VS HK

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE SEEK AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SERVICES IN HONG KONG

1. CLEDWYN WILLIAMS, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE HONG KONG AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING CORPORATION VISITED THE CONSULATE GENERAL TO DISCUSS WITH CONGEN AND USDLO OFFICERS RECENT BUSINESS OVERTURES FROM THE VIETNAMESE. WILLIAMS SAID HE HAD RECIEVED INDIRECT APPROACHES THROUGH HONG KONG AND LONDON FROM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHROITIES INQUIRING WHETER HAECO WOULD PERFORM MAINTANCE FOR DC-3, DC-4 AND DC-6 AIRCRAFT AND FOR PISTON ENGINES. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF NUMBERS OR TIMING. WILLIAMS NOTED THAT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SUCH ARICRAFT HE WULD NEED US SPARE PARTS.

2. A CONGEN OFFICER ADVISED WILLIAMS THAT UNDER THE CURRENT US TRADE EMBARGO ON VIETNAM, US FIRMS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SELL SPARE PARTS FROM USE IN VIENTMASE
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PAGE 02 HONG K 01031 280952Z

AIRCRAFT WITHOUT SPECIAL LICENSE. IN ADDITION, THERE

MIGHT BE SOME QUESTION RAISED AS TO THE TITLE OF ANY
VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT BROUGHT TO HONG KONG.

3. WILLIAMS SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE US POSITION ON THE
EMBARGO, BUT HE THOUGH PERHAPS THE USG MIGHT RECONDISER
IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. HE POINTED OUT THAT HAECO WAS
NOT REALLY INTRESTED IN THIS KIND OF WORK FOR FINANCIAL
REASONS BUT RATHER FOR POLITICAL REASONS. HAECO WAS
CONNECTED TO CATHAY PACIFIC UNDER SWIRE AND SONS LTD.,
AND VIET NAM OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO
THE HONG KONG-BANGKOK ROUTE. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS
PANAM COULD ALSO BE GIVEN OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS IF SOME
ARRANGEMENTS COULE BE MADE IN THIS AREA.

4. MR. WILLIAMS WAS ADVISED THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT
ANY EXCEPTIONS WOULD BE MADE FOR AIRCRAFT SPARE
PARTS BUT THAT THE VIETNAMESE APPROACH TO HAECO WOULD
BE REPORTED AND HE WOULD BE ADVISED IF THERE WERE ANY
FUTHER COMMENTS MADE ON THE PROPOSAL.

5. COMMENT: WILLIAMS APPEARED TO BE VERY STRAIGHT-
FORWARD IN THIS DISCUSSION AND VERY WILLING TO COOPERATE
WITH THE USG AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HIS COMMENT ON OVER-
FLIGHT RIGHTS FOR PANAM APPEARED TO BE SPONTANEROUS AND
HIS OWN THEORIZING NOT PART OF ANY INDIRECT OFFER FROM THE
VIETNAMESE.
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